

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141434

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: BGEN, PFOR, GH

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL BANK AND BLAY-MIEZAH

1. CONSULATE GENERAL MAY BE APPROACHED DURING WEEK JULY 1 BY PENNSYLVANIA ATTORNEY MATTHEW COPPOLINO AND/OR CONTINENTAL BANK OFFICER DENIS DUNN. BOTH ARE IN ZURICH TO VERIFY EXISTENCE OF 160 MILLION DLS ACCOUNT AT SCHWEIZERISCHE KREDITANSTALT ZURICH ALLEGEDLY PROPERTY ONE WILBUR DANIEL LAYMAN, SR., NOW DECEASED. IF ACCOUNT FOUND TO EXIST, COPPOLINO AND DUNN WILL TRY TO ARRANGE FOR ITS TRANSFER TO CONTINENTAL BANK IN PHILADELPHIA.

2. COPPOLINO REPORTEDLY HAS POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM DR. JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH, WHO HAS PRESENTED GHANA GOVT WITH DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY LAYMAN'S WILL IN WHICH BLAY-MIEZAH NAMED AS BENEFICIARY OF 160 MILLION DLS. BLAY-MIEZAH IS KNOWN CONFIDENCE ARTIST WITH RECORD OF CONVICTIONS FOR FRAUD IN GHANA SEVERAL OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. DESPITE THIS BACKGROUND, GOG ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CHIEF OF STATE ACHEAMPONG IS COOPERATING WITH BLAY-MIEZAH IN

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HIS EFFORTS OBTAIN FUNDS SUPPOSEDLY IN BANK. GOG APPARENTLY

BELIEVES THESE FUNDS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF GHANA BY FORMER PRESIDENT NKRUMAH DURING HIS REGIME. BLAY-MIEZAH HAS PROMISED TO RETURN ALL OR PART OF 160 MILLION TO GHANA. GOG HAS ISSUED BLAY-MIEZAH WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, POSSESSION OF WHICH IS STATED IN WILL AS CONDITION FOR TRANSFER OF 160 MILLION DLS TO BLAY-MIEZAH.

3. DUNN HAS CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH DEPT AS THIS AFFAIR HAS UNROLLED. BLAY-MIEZAH IS FACING DEPORTATION HEARING IN US AND WHOLE EXERCISE MAY HAVE BEEN PLOY TO OBTAIN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, WHICH BLAY-MIEZAH THOUGHT WOULD ALLOW HIM REMAIN US. DUNN SHARES DEPT'S SUSPICIONS HE IS INVOLVED IN HOAX. COPPOLINO, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY OF GOOD REPUTATION, IS CLOSER TO BLAY-MIEZAH AND ACTS AS THOUGH PERSUADED BLAY-MIEZAH'S STORY IS TRUE. COPPOLINO BELIEVED UNAWARE DUNN'S CONTACTS WITH DEPT.

4. DUE ACHEAMPOWG'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT ON ONE HAND AND BLAY-MIEZAH'S CRIMINAL RECORD ON OTHER, DEPT MONITORING THIS SITUATION CLOSELY IN HOPES AVOIDING ANY INCIDENT PREJUDICIAL TO BILATERAL RELATIONS. RECOMMEND THAT IF DUNN OR COPPOLINO REQUEST ANY SERVICES OTHER THAN THOSE ROUTINELY PROVIDED US CITIZENS, THEY BE INFORMED CONSULATE GENERAL MUST REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIPT ANY INFORMATION CONSULATE GENERAL MIGHT OBTAIN FROM PAIR REGARDING EXISTENCE OF 160 MILLION DLS. SISCO

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